

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 25-49 were pending in this application. Claims 1-24 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 25 and 27 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 25 and 27.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 25 and 27 have been amended to clarify that the cover is configured to be reciprocally mounted on the rear bearing, and that the cover is a “protective outer” cover. Specifically, claim 25 has also been amended to recite that the phase connector and the protective outer cover are the same, i.e., the phase connector is a part of the protective outer cover, and that the protective outer cover is a complementary cover to the rear bearing. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0066], [0067], [0071], and Fig. 3 of the published application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 25-41, 44, 45, 47, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,546,280 (“Pfluger”). As discussed above, independent claims 25

and 27 have been amended. To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In one or more embodiments of the present invention, a protective outer cover 100 is mounted on a rear bearing 14 of a polyphased rotating electrical machine to serve a dual purpose of covering the rear bearing and supporting the phase connector that is configured to connect to the phase outputs (*see, e.g.*, paragraph [0025] and Fig. 3). The phase connector is formed *on* the protective outer cover, and the protective outer cover 100 is a complementary cover to the rear bearing 14. Accordingly, amended independent claim 25 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the phase connector and the protective outer cover are the same part,” and “wherein the protective outer cover is a complementary cover to the rear bearing.” Amended independent claim 27, describing a variation of the above embodiment, recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the protective outer cover is a complementary cover to the rear bearing.”

The disclosure of Pfluger is directed to the simplification of the assembly of automotive alternators through provision of a bearing plate 20 that can be made such that little machining is needed to provide a fit with a receiving surface (*see, e.g.* col. 3, lines 10-18, and Fig. 1 of Pfluger). The Examiner construes the bearing plate 20 to be the protective cover and the slip ring-side ball bearing 8 in Pfluger (Fig. 1) to be the rear bearing as required by independent claims 25 and 27. The ball bearing 8 of Pfluger is merely received in a central hub portion 23 of the bearing plate 20, and serves to reduce friction within the central hub portion. Thus, the bearing plate is *not a complementary cover* to the ball bearing 8.

Additionally, it is to be noted that the protective outer cover 100 of the present invention could by itself cover at least one brush holder 135 (*see, e.g.*, paragraph [0095]), the brushes of which are intended to act as supports on slip rings integrated with the rear end of the rotor shaft (*see, e.g.*, paragraph [0004]). In the case of Pfluger, a brush holder 29 for guiding brushes 27 and 28 is merely formed as an extending projection on the hub portion 24, into an extension of which the ball bearing 8 is received (*see col. 3, lines 19-34 in Pfluger*).

Thus, Pfluger does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the claimed invention as required by amended independent claims 25 and 27. Therefore, independent claims 25 and 27 are not anticipated by Pfluger. Dependent claims 26, 28-41, 44, 45, 47, and 48 are also not anticipated for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 42, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,705,983 (“Franz et al.”). To the extent that this rejection still applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Franz et al., like Pfluger, fail to show or suggest a protective outer cover that is a complementary cover to a rear bearing, as required by amended independent claim 27. Therefore, Franz et al. fail to show or suggest at least the above limitation of claim 27. Independent claim 27 is therefore not anticipated by Franz et al. Claims 42 and 43, directly or indirectly dependent on claim 27, are also not anticipated for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 46 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfluger in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,065 ("Vlemmings et al."). As discussed above, Pfluger does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the claimed invention. Vlemmings et al., like Pfluger, does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the claimed invention. Thus, Vlemmings et al. fail to supply that which Pfluger lacks with respect to amended independent claims 25 and 27. This is because Vlemmings et al. was cited by the Examiner as merely showing "the polyphase rotating electrical machine being an alternator-starter further comprising: a sensor holder and a sensor holder connector for the purpose of monitoring the motor and starter operation." (see Office Action dated 3/18/2008, page 7).

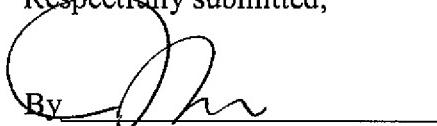
In view of the above, claims 46 and 49, which directly or indirectly depend on claims 25 and 27, are therefore patentable over Pfluger in view of Vlemmings et al., whether considered separately or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17170/010001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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